

FUNERAL FOR NATIONALLY KNOWN LOCAL LIBRARIAN WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY

**Harlan H. Ballard Dies of Heart Attack Following Illness
Caused by Fall on Ice Several Weeks Ago—Honored
Throughout Nation for Scholarship and Au-
thorship—Founded Famous Association for St.
Nicholas Magazine—Was 33d Degree Mason**

Funeral services for Harlan H. Ballard, 80, librarian of the Berkshire Athenaeum for nearly 46 years, who died of a heart attack shortly after noon yesterday, will be held at 2:30 P. M. Wednesday at the home, 247 South Street. Burial will be in the family lot at the Pittsfield Cemetery, and there will be no honorary bearers. The Rev. Robert I. Blakesley, assistant pastor of the First Congregation Church, will officiate at the ceremony.

Mr. Ballard had been confined to his home since Friday, Jan. 26, when he fell on the icy pavement while walking to the library and broke several ribs. Under the care of Dr. John B. Thomes he recovered sufficiently during two weeks in bed to move about his home, but heart trouble developed last Wednesday and the end came suddenly.

Survivors

Mr. Ballard is survived by his widow, the former Miss Lucy Bishop Pike of Lenox, and three children, a son, Attorney Harlan H. Ballard Jr., of Boston, and two daughters, Miss Lucy Bishop Ballard of this city, and Mrs. William E. Crofut, formerly Miss Elizabeth Ballard, of



HARLAN H. BALLARD
Nationally Known Librarian Is
Dead

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Cleveland, Ohio. There are also six grandchildren.

Mrs. Ballard and Miss Ballard were with Mr. Ballard at the time of his death. Attorney Ballard arrived in this city later in the afternoon, and Mrs. Crofut early this morning. The Athenaeum will be closed in honor to his memory during the hour of the funeral on Wednesday.

Dr. Harry A. Garfield, president of Williams College, upon learning of Mr. Ballard's death issued the following statement:

"Mr. Ballard was an honored alumnus of Williams whose services to Pittsfield and Berkshire County were widely recognized and appreciated."

Mayor Allen H. Bagg, an ex-officio trustee of the Athenaeum, added his tribute to the sentiments of regret at Mr. Ballard's passing which were expressed in all parts of the city. Mayor Bagg's statement reads:

"The death of Harlan H. Ballard is a distinct loss to the city of Pittsfield. He was a good citizen, a scholar and a gentleman in every sense of the word.

"I especially remember him as always ready to help others in educational or historical research. His long connection with Berkshire County and his keen interest in preserving historical documents brought to us a service that will be more and more valued as the years go by.

"His place in this community was unique, and it will be a hard one to fill. We loved him for his devotion, his unselfish service and his many other sterling qualities. We mourn his loss."

There are six grandchildren: Olive Barker Ballard, a senior at Smith College, daughter of Attorney Ballard; and the five children of Mrs. Crofut, Elizabeth, Ruth, Margaret and Jane Burr Crofut and Robert T. Gage.

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Committee on Metropolitan Affairs, hears petition that cities and towns of the metropolitan area be relieved from assessments on account of deficits in the operation of the Boston Elevated.

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Honored Far and Wide

Author, translator of the "Aeneid," founder of the famed Agassiz Association, historian and educator. Mr. Ballard was known far beyond the confines of Berkshire County. Librarian of the Athenaeum for nearly 46 years, he was born in Athens, Ohio, on May 24, 1853, son of the Rev. Addison and Julia Perkins (Prait) Ballard. In 1874 he was graduated from Williams College, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and in 1877 he received his degree of Master of Arts from the same institution. From 1874 to 1880, he was principal of the Lenox High School, and of the Lenox Academy, a leading preparatory school, from 1880 to 1886. In 1888, he was appointed librarian of the Berkshire Museum, a position which he has fulfilled without interruption ever since.

He has published numerous books, among which the best known are "Adventures of a Librarian," which appeared in 1929 and relates occurrences in Mr. Ballard's own life during his four decades as head of the Berkshire institution, and a translation of Vergil's "Aeneid" into English hexameters, which appeared originally from 1902-1911 and was republished on Vergil's bimillennial celebration in 1931. Mr. Ballard started this translation while teaching in Lenox, his interest being first awakened by an assignment which he chanced to give to his pupils to translate the first 100 lines of the Aeneid into hexameters. The translation has been highly commended by prominent educators. It was published first by Houghton, Mifflin & Company and later by Charles Scribner & Sons.

Other published works by Mr. Ballard include the following: "Three Kingdoms," 1882; "World of Matter," 1892; "Open Sesame," 1896; "Reopen Sesame," 1897; and "The Tiler's Jewel" (a Masonic novel), 1921. He was also a joint author of "American Plant Book," 1879, Barnes' Readers, 1883, and "One Thousand Blunders in English," 1884.

As the oldest member of the Monday Evening Club Mr. Ballard was scheduled to give a paper on "An Old Model" a few days after he met with his accident. His place was taken by the Rev. George A. Tuttle of the South Church.

Mr. Ballard was a prominent member of the First Congregational Church. He had served in the past as president of the Massachusetts Library Association.

When Mr. Ballard assumed his duties at the Athenaeum in 1888, the volumes numbered only 15,890. In the latest report the number of books is 91,503. In addition to this growth of book facilities, Mr. Ballard has fostered a large number of innovations at the Athenaeum, including a rare book vault, a children's room, a reference room, a genealogical and local history section, a reading room, a book "hospital," and a basement vault for newspapers and public documents. He is secretary of the Berkshire Historical Society and considered an authority on this subject.

In 1897 Mr. Ballard himself designed an addition to the Athenaeum building which now extends behind the reference desk to the south. A few years ago, a second tier of books was added, and plans are completed for a third tier, to be added within a decade or so.

In 1929, Mr. Ballard was awarded the 33rd degree in Masonry in recognition of his public service in Berkshire County. He was always an active Mason, having written a book and frequent verses on Masonic matters. He was a past master of Crescent Lodge of Masons and was worshipful master at the first past masters' night ever conducted in Pittsfield, in the summer of 1899. He spoke frequently on Masonic occasions in this section and other States.

Founded Agassiz.

One of the most significant activities was the organization in 1875 of the Agassiz Association for the Study of Nature, who once had over 1000 branches, and 30,000 members. In the last decade of the nineteenth century, this association was na-

tionally known, and its member groups introduced thousands of youngsters for the first time to a study of nature. Mr. Ballard also edited for six years the Agassiz Association department, in 38, Nicholas magazine. Several of his books are on natural and scientific subjects. While the association has long since ceased to be active, the influences which it had on many a boy and girl were lifelong.

In 1928 Mr. Ballard provoked what became a widely discussed issue by stating publicly that the number of "bad" books is increasing and that "the reviews in leading newspapers, magazines and other sources of book information are subsidized by book publishers who pay for their writing." This statement brought a stout denial from Walter Prichard Eaton and later from the metropolitan newspapers throughout the East.

The Athenaeum trustees, for which Mr. Ballard acted as clerk of the board as well as librarian, voted him a 10 weeks' vacation in 1895, during which he travelled in Europe, visiting England, France, Italy, Egypt and Greece. This was his only trip abroad.

Mr. Ballard's guiding principles in administering the Athenaeum was that a librarian should be more than a mere bookkeeper. He felt he should select with care the books which he placed on his shelves for any to take who cared. Thus he encountered, from time to time, criticism from those whose tastes differed from his. He made it a point to read or examine carefully every book which was purchased for or given the Athenaeum, and to exclude those which he felt were worthless or would have an unfortunate influence. However, he always did his best to fulfill requests for proper books as far as the Athenaeum funds would allow.

Recently Mr. Ballard was one of the first librarians in New England to secure a CWA allotment. He was allowed \$4500 for Athenaeum improvements and had hoped to secure another sum to hire typists to copy the priceless records on file at the library of Col. William Williams, one of the founders of Pittsfield. The physical changes in the Athenaeum, which include the building of new archives for bound newspapers are still under way. In getting this appropriation Mr. Ballard was the envy of other librarians of the State, who subsequently were unsuccessful.

In 1879, Mr. Ballard married Miss Lucy Bishop Pike, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Pike of Newburyport and granddaughter of William Walker Bishop who for many years was judge of the court of common pleas. The wedding took place at the old Bishop homestead still standing at the corner of Stockbridge road and West Street in Lenox. Among the attendants at the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. George H. Tucker of this city. Mr. and Mrs. Ballard had three children, Attorney Harlan H. Ballard of Boston, and two daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Crofut, Cleveland, Ohio, and Miss Lucy Bishop Ballard of this city.

LOCAL EXPRESS HITS MINISTER

The Pittsfield-New York Express on the New Haven Railroad seriously injured Rev. Charles Capwell, retired Episcopal minister, Saturday when his automobile was struck at a crossing of the Danbury branch. Flying debris struck James Longobroco, a railroad employee, who sought with a fellow worker unsuccessfully to warn Mr. Capwell of the approaching southbound train.

MORTGAGE FIRM GIVEN CHARTER

A charter has been granted the Central Berkshire Mortgage Company by State Secretary Frederic W. Cook. The company has a capital of \$200,000 and the incorporators are John J. Mahanna of Pittsfield, John B. Woodburn of Hinsdale, and Samuel A. Kruse of Pittsfield.

SPEAKS IN BALTIMORE

K. B. McEachron, research engineer in charge of all high voltage investigation at the local works of the General Electric Company, is speaking tonight in Baltimore, Md., before the Baltimore Section of the A. I. E. E. His subject is "Lightning in Field and Laboratory." On Tuesday, March 6, Mr. McEachron will speak on the same subject before the Greenfield Kiwanis Club.